

8223. e.
29

T H E
C A S E
O F
Messieurs *Brooke* and *Hellier*.

IT is too well known to need any representing to this Honourable House, how for many Years past, the Wines commonly Sold in Taverns, as well in this City as through the Kingdom, were so generally Adulterated and Spoiled with Scandalous Mixtures, and Arts of the Vintners and Coopers, that little or no Wine, either Pleasant to the Palate, or Safe to the Health of the Drinker, was to be had; and yet, that even those Adulterated Wines were Sold at Excessive and Unreasonable Prices: The first injuring the Health, and the other the Trade, and both lessening the Importation and Consumption of Wine in General.

Brooke and *Hellier* may without Vanity assume, that they have been Instrumental to reform these Abuses, (1.) By breaking the Combinations of the Vintners for engrossing all the Wines into their Hands. (2.) By exposing to Sale by Retale true Net and Uncorrupted Wine, Natural, and without Mixture. (3.) By reducing the Price of Retaled Wine from 2 s. per Quart for Mixt and Adulterated Stuff, to 18 d. per Quart for real Wine, Unmixt and Natural, as above; by which, not only the Town is restored to the drinking of good Wine, which they had almost forgot, but the Trade to Portugal restor'd and recovered, which was evidently sunk before, as they doubt not will appear by the great Import of Wines, for the Time to come more than for several Years before.

Now altho' they are not pleading any Merit on this Account to obtain any Advantage above other Importers of Wines, yet they humbly hope they have at least merited thereby not to be used worse, have harder Measure, than other Merchants, or to be discouraged in their Business, by being obliged to pay higher Duties than others, by which those other Merchants being enabled to undersel, may Ruin and Destroy their Trade.

They acknowledge that they have Sold great Quantities of Wine by Retale, and they make no Scruple to pay Retailers Duty for such Wines as the Law directs; but as they were bred Merchants, and always Traded as Merchants, without Retailing at all, except on this known Occasion, they cannot but think it would be very hard to oblige them to lay down the rest of their Trade, or to Trade at the Disadvantage of Eight per Cent. Dearer than their Neighbours.

The Retailing being therefore but a Part of their Trade, and an Accident to the rest, they humbly alledge does no Way interfere with their Trade as Merchants, nor can they be in Reason treated in One General Capacity when they appear to Trade in Two.

The Custom-House have yet gone further, (*viz.*) to charge them with Retailers Duty in the Outports, where they have not Retaled at all; as if, because they were Retailers in London, they might not be Wholesale Men, and Merchants in Yarmouth.

Nor is it equal on many other Accounts, particularly since all the Coopers, who Import Wines in their own Names, pay as Merchants only; and yet it is evident that they are all Retailers, and own themselves to be so on several Occasions.

The Petitioners beg leave humbly to represent to this Honourable House, that all the Duty of Wines Imported paid as Retailers by the Importer, except what they have been now obliged to pay, amounts but to Forty Pounds, or thereabouts, in the Whole for Seven Years past; as by the Books of the Custom-House aforesaid will appear; yet the several Importers of Wine in this City, have not only openly Sold their Wines by Retale; but have, in their Printed Papers and Advertisements, owned themselves to be both Importers and Retailers also: And it is humbly suggested, that if all the Wines Imported by Retailers, in the Sense above, had paid as the Petitioners are now charged, many Thousand Pounds would have been received for Her Majesty in the said Seven Years past.

They humbly beg leave to hope they have done nothing to forfeit the equal Claim to Her Majesties Favour in this Case, with other Importers; since 'tis apparent, that by their Means they have restored the Wine Trade in General, and they doubt not the Consequence will be great Advantage to Her Majesties Revenue, and the Encouragement of the English Manufactures; having themselves paid to Her Majesty, within One Year, above Twenty-five Thousand Pounds Sterling for Customs.

And especially since their Demand in their present Application to the House is no more than what they conceive consists with the highest Justice and Equity, (*viz.*) that they should pay only as Merchants for such Wines as they have Imported, or shall Import, as Merchants, and shall Sell whole and unbroken, as Merchants; being content to pay as Retailers for such Wines as they shall Sell by Retale, and to submit to any such Orders and Regulations for the just and fair distinguishing them one from the other, as to this Honourable House shall seem meet.

All which is humbly submitted to this Honourable House, &c.

Messieurs Brooke and Helmer

Time is, no more than for several Years before
 evidently forgotten as they doubt not will appear by the great liquor of Wines for the
 which they had almost forgot, but the Trade to Portugal's and recovered, which was
 small as above; by which, not only the Town is restored to the drinking of good Wine,
 liquor for Mixt and Adulterated Stuff, to 18d per Quart for real Wine, Liqueur and Ma-
 tial, and without Minors. (3.) By reducing the Price of Refined Wine from 2s a
 who their Trade. (2.) By exposing to Sale by Retail true Not and Unadulterated Wine, Ma-
 these Abuses. (1.) By breaking the Combinations of the Vintners for engrossing all the Wines
 to be sold, and (4.) By may without Vintners, that they have been instrumental to reform

being enabled to conduct, may hold their position, by being obliged to pay higher Duties than others, by which those other Merchants, who would have had to pay higher Duties than other Merchants, or to be discouraged in their other important of Wines, yet they humbly hope they have at least merited thereby not to be Now also, they are not pleading any Merit on this Account to obtain any Advantage above

They acknowledge that they have sold great Quantities of Wine by Retail, and they make no Scruple to pay Retailers Duty for such Wine as the same Retailers, but as they were found Merchants, and always Traded as Merchants, without Retailing at all, except on the few Occasions, they cannot but think it would be very hard to oblige them to pay down the rest of their Trade, or to Trade at the Disadvantage of Eight per Cent. Better than their Neighbours. The Retailing being therefore but a Part of their Trade, and an Accident to the rest, they humbly alledge does no Way inverte the Trade as Merchants, nor can they be in Retail as in One General Case.

Messieurs B

OF
WINE
Imported by Messrs. Crooke and Hellier.

having themselves paid to Her Majesty, within One Year, above Twenty-five Thousand great Advantage to Her Majesty's Revenue, and the Encouragement of the English Manufacturers; they have restored the Wine Trade in General, and they doubt not the Consequence will be Miracles Favour in this Case, with other Importers; since its appearance, that by their Means they hardly beg leave to hope they have done nothing to forfeit the equal Claim to Her Majesty in the last Seven Years past.

And especially since their Demand in their present Application to the House is no more than what they conceive conflicts with the highest Justice and Equity (viz.) that they should pay only as Merchants for such Wines as they have imported, or shall import, as Merchants, and shall sell whole and unbroken as Merchants; being content to pay as Retailers for such Wines as they shall sell by Retail, and to submit to any such Orders and Regulations for the just and fair distinguishing them one from the other, as to this Honorable House shall seem meet.

All which is humbly submitted to this Honorable House, Sec.